

TOWN OF EASTHAM

2500 State Highway, Eastham, MA 02642 *All Departments 508-240-5900* www.eastham-ma.gov

Jan Buff 6. 9/30/2021.

MINUTES EASTHAM BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 AT 3PM EARLE MOUNTAIN ROOM AT TOWN HALL

Present: Jane Crowley, Dr. Joanna Buffington (Chair), Hope Plavin, Catherine Mondon, Wendy Walsh (Alternate), Susan Barker Present remotely: Adele Blong, Francie Williamson

I. NOTIFICATION OF VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING II. OPENING STATEMENTS

Mrs. Crowley provided an update on two ponds:

- Moll's Pond is currently closed due to a cyanobacteria algae bloom. The bloom was reported by abutters and observed by the Health Agent. The pond will be monitored and reopened when the bloom is no longer present.
- Herring Pond is being monitored due to algae growth. The type and amount of algae does not warrant a closure but the pond is being closely monitored.

Mrs. Crowley also provided an update on COVID-19 in Eastham. August 2021 was a difficult month with the greatest number of new covid-19 cases since the pandemic began. More information was given during the discussion on a mask mandate.

III. PUBLIC HEARING ON RENTAL VIOLATIONS

1. AVIGDOR KONIG

29 LONGSTREET LN

M10 P334

Susan Barker presented a summary of the rental violation. Mr. Konig stated he was unaware of the rental certificate requirements. He has since completed all necessary steps to receive a rental certificate.

Ms. Blong moved to waive the fine.

Ms. Williamson seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

IV. VARIANCES

2. PETER & CAREY HOCK

4 SHORTY'S WAY

M5 P370I

Darren Meyer of Meyer & Sons presented a plan to upgrade the existing septic system to include alternative treatment and allow for an additional bedroom on the 25, 592 sq. ft. lot. The upgraded system will include the existing 1000 gallon septic tank, a proposed 1500 gallon septic tank, Singulair SESI600 denitrification wastewater treatment system model 960, distribution box, and a 33.5'x 13'x 2' soil absorption system. The following variance was applied for:

1. 310 CMR 15.211 – proposed leach area 4.9' below grade vs 3' (H-20/vent provided).

Ms. Mondon moved to approve the presented plan with the following conditions:

- 1. No increase in design flow be allowed. Any increase in habitable square footage would require Board of Health review and abutter notification.
- 2. Secondary treatment with Singulair SESI 600 design with monitoring under general use approval conditions per DEP regulations including testing quarterly (or 2 times per year for seasonal use for total nitrogen, BOD, TSS, Nitrate-nitrogen not to exceed 19 mg/l. After a two year period of time reduction of testing could be requested to BOH by owner.
- 3. Operation and maintenance agreement to be submitted to EBOH. Operation and maintenance agreement to be required for life of the system. Operator to report results via Carmody Data Base provided through Barnstable County Health or directly to the Eastham Health Department if not available.
- 4. Deed restriction for use alternative technology requirement to be recorded on deed and 3 Bedroom deed restriction to be recorded.
- 5. Designer to verify proper operation of the system prior to issuance of Certificate of Compliance

Ms. Williamson seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

V. REVIEWS

3. KEVIN & LORETTA FOLEY

256 HERRING BROOK RD

M17 P480F

Laura Schofield of Schofield Brothers presented a plan to renovate the existing dwelling and build a garage with a room above using the existing septic system on the 28, 402 sq. ft. lot. The garage will only be heated on the lower level. Access to the bathroom on the lower floor was clarified.

Ms. Blong moved to approve the presented plan with the following conditions:

- 1. No increase in design flow.
- 2. No increase in habitable space without Board of Health approval and abutter notification.
- 3. No alteration to space above garage that would include heat.
- 4. 3 bedroom deed restriction to be recorded on deed.

Ms. Mondon seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

4. JONATHAN & ALISON WILCOX

13 BEACH PLUM LN

M13 P183

Alison Wilcox owner of 13 Beach Plum Ln was present for a discussion of high nitrates in the well water tests submitted with the rental certificate application. 13 Beach Plum Ln is 8,712 sq. ft. lot with an existing 2 bedroom dwelling. Many homes in the neighborhood are pre-existing, non-conforming to

current regulations, which can contribute to high nitrates. The property owners should consider municipal water if high nitrates continue.

Dr. Buffington moved to approve the rental certificate for 2021 with the following conditions:

- 1. Bottle water be provided for 2021.
- 2. Water test for 2022 to be submitted. Rental certificate for 2022 will not be issued with an exceedance of Nitrate-Nitrogen.
- 3. Connection to municipal water is suggested.

Ms. Williamson seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

VI. DISCUSSION ON FACE MASK REQUIREMENT

The Board discussed a requirement for indoor face mask use. Dr. Buffington cited the updated CDC guidelines for indoor mask use in high transmission areas, which Barnstable County is considered to be. Mrs. Crowley outlined the increased incidence rate for Eastham in August, which has been had the highest number of cases in Eastham since the pandemic began. The latest data from the MA Department of Public Health has an incidence rate of 31 per 100,000 for Eastham, with the state average of 15.5 and Barnstable County average of 11.4. Provincetown, Wellfleet, and Truro all have indoor mask mandates, as well as the schools..

Dr. Buffington addressed comments submitted prior to the meeting regarding mask effectiveness and herd immunity. Different masks have different levels of effectiveness, but all are better than no masks. It is not yet known the percentage of those with antibodies needed to reach herd immunity.

The owners of Caroline's Bar and Grill spoke against the mask mandate, requesting that each individual business be able to decide for themselves. Nathan Nickerson, owner of Arnolds, also spoke against the mandate. Patti Mcgraw, owner of Good Eats on 6, spoke of increased mask use and difficulty of wearing a mask in the kitchen. Susan Knight, owner of Sam's Deli, was also concerned about mask use for kitchen workers, The mask mandate would only apply to workers in customer facing areas.

The Board reiterated that mask wearing is to protect those most vulnerable in our community.

Ms. Blong moved to adopt an indoor mask mandate modeled on Wellfleet's mask mandate with an effective date of August 30, 2021 and to be reviewed monthly.

Ms. Plavin seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS - VOTE MAY BE TAKEN

Dr. Buffington nominated Catherine Mondon to be vice-chair of the Board. Ms. Williamson seconded the nomination.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)

VIII. MINUTES - VOTE MAY BE TAKEN

Ms. Mondon moved to approve with amendments.

Ms. Williamson seconded the motion.

Approved 4-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Walsh)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blong moved to adjourn.

Ms. Mondon seconded the motion.

Approved 5-0 (Buffington, Mondon, Blong, Williamson, Plavin)